

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, December 6. 1709.

WELL, Gentlemen, now the War in the North is begun, the Stroke is stricken; the Dane has pass'd the Rubicon, he has drawn the Sword, and thrown away the Scabbard — And the Swedes are to be push'd on every side — 17000 Danes in *Schonen* — 18000 *Norwegians* on the Frontiers on that side; *Riga* threatned with 120000 *Muscovites*, and *Elbing* with 40000 *Poles* — What his *Prussian* Majesty purposes to do, or what Part he will act in this Tragedy, we know not yet — But alas poor *Sweden* — not one Nation in *Europe* to take up this Quarrel, none of the mighty Princes of Christendom to mediate a Peace for a Kingdom in Distress! Where's the Protestant Gratitude now of *Germany*, for all

that *Swedish* Blood spent to establish the Liberty and Religion of the Empire — That Blood, on which the Greatness of the House of *Saxony* and *Brandenburgh*, now to be employ'd against *Sweden*, was built.

But for this very Nation, there had been no such Names in the World at this time, as Electorate of *Saxony*, Electorate of *Brandenburgh*, or Kingdom of *Prussia*, all had been swallow'd up in one mighty exorbitant *German* Empire, and the Protestant Interest there been swallow'd up in a Deluge of Popery — This brave Nation struggled with the victorious Arms of *Ferdinand II.* and conquer'd his invincible Count *Tilly*; *Gustavus Adolphus*, the gallant King of this gallant People, came into *Germany* to

to save them, and now they are for driving out his Posterity, in order to save themselves—Let that be prov'd by the Event.

And who are they going to make Great, at the Expence of their old Saviours? The barbarous *Russ*, the unpolish'd *Circassians*; these are now learning to fight of the *Germans*, just as the *Goths* and *Vandals* did of the *Romans*—And what was the Consequence? *Nothing, Neighbours*—Only that they learn'd to box their Masters, and at last beat them out of their Empire—Let them look out that have the Watch, *as the Sailors say*; let them mark it that stand next the Danger; for my Part *I was a Muscovite and a Pole*, while the ambitious *Swede* push'd his private Pique, and prosecuted his Personal Fury at the Expence of other Nations Liberty, and aiming at correcting Empires, enflam'd the World, endanger'd the Tranquility of *Europe*, neglected or threatned the great Confederacy, which he ought to have been concern'd for, and drove at an Exorbitance unsafe to his peaceable Neighbours.

But now the Tables are turn'd: And when the King of *Sweden*, being fallen from his mighty Prospects, is humbled to a Degree sufficient to cheque his Ambition, and warn his Neighbours; when you are talking of falling upon his Kingdom, and rearing him to pieces at home, devouring and dividing the Spoil, sharing his Dominions, and taking from him his Lands in *Germany*, the old Rewards of his great Ancestors Blood—and the Pledge given the *Swedes* to engage them always in the Protestant Cause; I say, when this comes upon our Stage, I must be a *Swede*, and so must every honest Man, whose Eyes are open to the Liberties and Interest of *Europe*.

And after all, it is true, the *Swede* is at a Disadvantage, their King a Fugitive, their Army broken, their Strength separated, and their People a little dispirited—But dy'd *Abner as a Fool dieth*; his Hands were not bound, or his Feet put into Fetters; *as a Man falleth before wicked Men, so died Abner*, 2 Sam. 3. 34.—The *Swedes* do not fall as a Fool falleth—but oppress'd by Multitude, and push'd by the Force of powerful Advantages, They may fall—

and it will be, as a Man falleth before wicked Men, *if they do*; for surely, if *Sweden* be over-run by the *Muscovite*, and the Protestant Powers now leagu'd against him go on—Others may call these Things, War and Confederacies; I can call it nothing but Invasion of Right, which in War is like Assassination in private Cases, and the *Swedish* Nation will in my Opinion be murder'd, not conquer'd.

Two Troopers and a Dragon beat a little Boy, says the old Song. It will be very little to the Dishonour of the *Swedes*, tho' it may be to their Destruction, if they should fall by the Confederated Powers of four Princes so Great, as the *Muscovite*, *Pole*, *Prussian*, and *Dane*—But it will be infinitely to the Dishonour of the rest of *Europe*, if they suffer them to be conquer'd by this Conjunction. Nor after all do I apprehend, that this Confederacy, suppose it to be made, can hold together in Interest, so long as to go thorow Stich with the Ruin of the *Swedes*—And this I shall examine by it self; in the mean time, we do not see the *Prussian* yet embark'd; and at last should he but stand Neuter, I should be in no Pain for the rest, and am really of Opinion, that leave the *Prussian* out, and leave the King of *Sweden* at Liberty with the *Muscovite*, the *Dane*, and the *Pole*, he would fairly beat them all.

It is true; the *Danes* are good Soldiers, but it is as true, the *Swedes* always beat them, on the Land especially; nor is the *Dane* rich or powerful like the *Swede*; able to maintain so many Troops when rais'd, or to raise them again if once wasted, as the *Swede* is—If the *Dane* loses a Battle or two, he cannot retrieve it, as the *Swede* will; the Dominions of the *Swede* being prodigiously larger, and his Possessions in *Germany* very great, rich, and populous—If the *Swede* should give the *Dane* but one Shock in *Schonen*, he will sit easie on that side a good while after—As to the *Muscovite*, he is numerous in Men, improv'd in Military Art, and begins to make a terrible Figure—But the *German* Officers, he employs, will consider of it twice, before they joyn a Battle with an equal Number of *Swedes*, upon almost any Terms whatever—

ever—And as they are now to be Assailants, they will find it hot Work to break in upon the *Swedes*, when they have nothing to do but to defend themselves.

The King of *Poland* is next; and tho' he may find some Employ in settling his new Kingdom for this next Summer, yet suppose him at Liberty, he has all *Polish Prussia* to recover, and the strong Cities of

Elbing, Thorn, Calisch, &c. to regain, before he can be thought to act upon the *Offensive* against *Sweden*—And in a Years Time more, *Sweden* would have Time to turn round in—So that in short, let but the King of *Prussia* stand Neuter, I shall be in no Pain for the *Swedes*—The rest I shall speak to in my next.

MISCELLANEA.

I Have at large spoken to the Affair call'd the Liberty of the Press; I have frankly spoken my Thoughts as to the General, and shew'd something of the Reason and Necessity of taking some steady Course, with the open Robberies and Depredations of Printers and Pyratie Booksellers—

In a well govern'd Nation as this is, it was never known, that open Robbery should be allow'd, Families ruin'd, Industry plunder'd, Learning discourag'd, and Violence committed, without any Punishment—

Why have we Laws against House-breakers, High-way Robbers, Pick-Pockets, Ravishers of Women, and all Kinds of open Violence? When in this Case a Man has his Goods stolen, his Pocket pick'd, his Estate ruin'd, his Prospect of Advantage ravish'd from him, after infinite Labour, Study, and Expence, and has no Remedy, no Justice to fly to—no Court to have Satisfaction in, nor any Method to prevent it—To plead with one of these Thieves, as a poor Man I knew did—his Poverty, his Family, his Distress—and beg a Pyrate Printer that he would not print his Copy—it was needless, the Villain laugh'd at him—ask'd him Money—took Money, promis'd not to do it—and then privately procur'd another to do it.

To print another Man's Copy, is much worse than robbing him on the Highway; for the Thief takes only what he finds about him, but the Pyrate Printer takes away his Inheritance—An elaborate Work, a long studied Treatise, a painfully collected History; it both is and ought to be the

Due, not of the Author only, but of his Family and Children—And this is all ravag'd by the Re-printing Pyrate; A Thief plunders the Goods—of the Man he robs, but this burns his House, and beggars his Children.

To say we know not how to prevent this, is saying what is very foolish—This, and the Printing seditious or heretical Books, is easily suppress'd by an Act of Parliament of but two Clauses.

1. That no Man shall presume to print, or sell when printed, any Book that has been printed before, without the Consent or Agreement of the Author or Proprietor of the said Book—under a Penalty of $\$2$ per Sheet for the said Copy, to be paid Half to the Queen, Half to the Person injur'd, by the Printer or Publisher of the said Book—

To make this effectual, it should be Enacted,

1. That every Printer shall be oblig'd to set his Name to every Book he prints, and the Name of the Person he prints it for, That no Bookseller may be deceiv'd—And that every Bookseller, who shall sell or vend any pyrated Copy, not having the Printer's Name to it, shall be esteem'd the Publisher in the Sence of the Act.

2. That the Author or Proprietor of any Copy so pyrated, shall have his private Action of Damages against every Seller or Publisher of such Copy, as well as against the Printer; wherein if he cast the said Publisher, he shall recover—